

## RWA Watersheds (American, Cosumnes, and Bear Rivers) Resilience Pilot Study Advisory Committee Meeting #3

**Date:** August 11, 2025  
**Project name:** RWA Watersheds Resilience Pilot Study  
**Project no:** W8Y34200

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### Attendees

#### Project Team

Name	Organization
Ryan Ojakian	Regional Water Authority (RWA)
Jim Peifer	RWA
Trevor Joseph	RWA
Monica Garcia	RWA
Ashley Flores	RWA
Grace Kaufman	Valley Vision
Gretchen James	Valley Vision
Ibrahim Khadam	Khadam Consulting
Devyani Kar	Jacobs
Sirisha Nemani	Jacobs
Armin Munevar	Jacobs
Vijay Kesavan	Jacobs
Tapash Das	Jacobs
Mike Mak	Jacobs
Shannon Litchfield	Jacobs
CJ Porter	Jacobs

#### Advisory Committee

Name	Organization
Ashlee Casey	Sacramento Water Forum
Austin Miller	Sacramento County Department of Water Resources (DWR)
Brett Ewart	City of Sacramento
Brian Sanders	City of Sacramento

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Christine Kohn	IN Communications
Clyde Macdonald	Save the American River Association
Gary Bardini	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
Greg Jones	Nevada Irrigation District
Juliet Grable	IN Communications
Laura Rodarte	Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)
Michelle Banonis	RWA
Mike Grinstead	Sacramento County Water Agency
Raiyna Villasenor	RWA/SGA
Rebecca Guo	El Dorado Water Agency
Tony Firenzi	Placer County Water Agency
Ted Rauh	Environmental Council of Sacramento

## Meeting Notes

### Introductions and Purpose

- **Ryan Ojakian (RO):** Introduced the goal of establishing a decision-making process to guide climate adaptation strategies; emphasized the importance of stakeholder input and encouraged feedback via email and one-on-one meetings
- **Jim Peifer (JP):** Noted that the DWR is interested in the pilot's outcomes, especially for Proposition 4; highlighted the focus on logic and prioritization of watershed actions
- **Devyani Kar (DK):** Provided an overview of the roadmap, starting from watershed boundary development to the current vulnerability and risk assessment phase

### Vision and Equity

- **RO:** Shared the finalized vision statement and emphasized embedding equity throughout the process
- **DK:** Reinforced the importance of equity in adaptation strategies
- **Clyde Macdonald:** Asked how equity is being defined
- **RO:** Explained that equity is being shaped by stakeholder feedback and tools like CalEnviroScreen
- **Gary Bardini:** Suggested using the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program's definition of equity

### Roadmap and Timeline

- **DK:** Explained the roadmap stages and concurrent development due to time constraints
- **JP:** Stressed the amount of work required between Step 4 (vulnerability assessment) and Step 5 (watershed plan development)

## Vulnerability Assessment

- **Ibrahim Khadam (IK):** Described the systematic process for assessing vulnerabilities, including exposure, sensitivity, adaptive capacity, and overall vulnerability; introduced the eight systems being evaluated
- **Greg Jones:** Asked why agriculture was not included
- **IK:** Explained agriculture is tied to surface and groundwater systems
- **Tony Firenzi:** Suggested a category for human uses of water
- **Laura Rodarte:** Noted human use is intrinsic across all categories
- **JP:** Proposed fitting agriculture under community and equity
- **IK:** Explained the geographical planning areas (Upper/Lower American, Bear, and Cosumnes)
- **Mike Grinstead:** Questioned assumptions about agency capacity
- **IK:** Provided examples of sensitivity and adaptive capacity (e.g., Folsom Reservoir or rural systems)
- **Ted Rauh:** Requested deeper discussion on vulnerability classification and assumptions about well depth
- **RO:** Encouraged feedback and questions from the group
- **IK:** Presented the vulnerability assessment spreadsheet and explained how exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity are synthesized

## Vulnerability Ratings Discussion

- **IK:** Explained recreation ranks low in vulnerability, while forest health ranks high
- **Tony Firenzi:** Asked about differences in vulnerability ratings between PCWA and Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
- **IK:** Clarified SMUD's lower demand and higher adaptive capacity
- **Mike Grinstead:** Raised concerns about conveyance system ratings and financial capacity
- **IK:** Explained financial capacity is part of adaptive capacity
- **Laura Rodarte:** Asked about the role of natural vulnerability
- **Ted Rauh:** Questioned recreation's low rating and the exclusion of Cosumnes Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- **RO:** Encouraged review of the spreadsheet to understand how qualitative analysis informs quantitative modeling

## Next Steps

- **IK:** Announced plans to update the vulnerability assessment based on stakeholder input; proposed 1-hour calls to gather sector-specific feedback; mentioned beginning the adaptation strategy formulation
- **JP:** Invited stakeholders to submit adaptation ideas and projects
- **Rebecca Guo:** Asked whether the team is seeking strategies or project lists
- **IK:** Confirmed both are welcome

- **Brett Ewart:** Shared Sacramento's Climate Action Plan as a resource on equity ([cityofsacramento.gov/content/dam/portal/cdd/Planning/Long-Range/Climate-Action-Plan/18-06051\\_Sac CAAP\\_Digital – Final Adopted FEB272024.pdf](https://cityofsacramento.gov/content/dam/portal/cdd/Planning/Long-Range/Climate-Action-Plan/18-06051_Sac_CAAP_Digital_-_Final_Adopted_FEB272024.pdf))
- **DK:** Explained the strategy portfolio approach
- **Laura Rodarte:** Asked about DWR's toolkit and rating system
- **IK:** Confirmed the team started with DWR's toolkit and made adjustments
- **Mike Grinstead:** Asked about incorporating Sacramento County Water Agency project lists
- **JP:** Stressed the importance of community involvement in project selection
- **Armin Munevar:** Clarified that all adaptation strategies are welcome, not just full projects
- **Rebecca Guo:** Asked about group prioritization of high vulnerabilities
- **RO:** Confirmed the process will start with refining vulnerability analysis

### Technical Analysis

- **Tapash Das (TD):** Described the modeling framework using CMIP6, CalSim 3, and other tools; explained the development of three climate scenarios (Central Tendency (CT), Hot-Dry (HD), and Warm-Wet) and integration of equity metrics
- **JP:** Addressed Ted Rauh's concern about modeling assumptions and confirmed both CT and HD scenarios will be used
- **TD:** Reiterated the use of multiple scenarios and offered to discuss further in future meetings
- **Greg Jones:** Questioned the realism of modeling beyond 2070
- **Armin Munevar:** Explained late-century scenarios are used to test long-term strategy resilience
- **TD:** Outlined the development of over 25 indicators and metrics across seven sectors plus equity

### Website Launch

- **Shannon Litchfield:** Presented the new watershed network website, including program overview, registration form, contact list, and access to draft materials
- **Rebecca Guo:** Suggested renaming the site to reflect inclusion of Bear and Cosumnes Rivers

### Tribal Engagement

- **RO:** Reported ongoing outreach to tribal communities and requested support from attendees
- **Tony Firenzi:** Recommended engaging Marie for mentorship
- **Laura Rodarte:** Offered to follow up with Marie
- **JP:** Acknowledged tribal engagement is a long-term effort that may extend beyond the project deadline

## Closing and Action Items

- **Ted Rauh:** Asked for a summary of what materials will be sent and when feedback is needed
- **IK:** Confirmed the team will send PowerPoint slides and the vulnerability assessment spreadsheet, requesting feedback on both
- **Mike Grinstead:** Expressed appreciation for the structured approach and openness to feedback